

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A disk drive, comprising:
 - a disk-shaped storage medium supported for rotation;
 - a moving member supporting a read/write head for reading recorded data from the disk-shaped storage medium and writing data to the disk-shaped storage medium, and for moving the read/write head between a read/write position where the head is able to read data from and write data to the disk-shaped storage medium and a home position where the read/write head is separated from the disk-shaped storage medium;
 - a latching mechanism for securely holding the moving member in place; and
 - a switching mechanism for switching the latching mechanism between an operative state and an inoperative state.
2. The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the moving member is supported for turning on a pivot, and has one end part supporting a head slider holding the read/write head, and another end part for being latched by the latching mechanism.
3. The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the latching mechanism is an inertial latching mechanism that operates in response to an external shock.
4. The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the switching mechanism sets the latching mechanism in the operative state when the read/write head is at the home position, and sets the latching mechanism in the inoperative state when the read/write head is at the read/write position.
5. The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the latching mechanism has a latching member that moves in response to an external shock; and

the switching mechanism has a stopper member interlocked with the moving member so as to be engaged with or disengaged from the latching member according to the movement of the moving member.

6. A disk drive, comprising:
 - a disk-shaped storage medium supported for rotation;
 - a moving member supporting a read/write head for reading recorded data from the disk-shaped storage medium and writing data to the disk-shaped storage medium, and for moving the read/write head between a read/write position where the read/write head is able to read data from and write data to the disk-shaped storage medium and a home position where the read/write head is separated from the disk-shaped storage medium;
 - a latching mechanism for securely holding the moving member in place; and
 - a latch locking mechanism for locking the latching mechanism when the read/write head is at the read/write position.
7. The disk drive of claim 6, wherein the latching mechanism has a latching member that moves in response to an external shock, and
 - the latch locking mechanism has a stopper member that restrains the latching member from movement.
8. The disk drive of claim 6, wherein the stopper member is interlocked with the moving member so as to move according to the movement of the moving member.
9. The disk drive of claim 8, further comprising a biasing member for biasing the stopper member so as to obstruct the operation of the latching mechanism.
10. The disk drive of claim 8, wherein the obstruction of operation of the latching mechanism is removed when the moving member pushes the stopper member.
11. The disk drive of claim 8, further comprising a biasing member for biasing the stopper member to advance the stopper member into a moving range for the latching mechanism.

12. The disk drive of claim 8, wherein the stopper member is pushed by the moving member so as to move out of a moving range for the latching mechanism.

13. A disk drive, comprising:

a disk-shaped storage medium supported for rotation;

a moving member supporting a read/write head for reading recorded data from the disk-shaped storage medium and writing data to the disk-shaped storage medium, and for moving the read/write head between a read/write position where the read/write head is able to read data from and write data to the disk-shaped storage medium and a home position where the read/write head is separated from the disk-shaped storage medium; and

a latching mechanism for securely holding the moving member in place when the read/write head is at the home position and of remaining separate from the moving member when the read/write head is at the read/write position; and wherein

the latching mechanism includes a latching member for latching the moving member when the read/write head is at the home position, and a stopper member for restraining the latching member from movement when the read/write head is at the read/write position.

14. The disk drive of claim 13, wherein the stopper member is interlocked with the moving member, releases the latching member when the read/write head is at the home position, and restrains the latching member when the read/write head is at the read/write position.

15. The disk drive of claim 13, wherein the stopper member has a first contact part for being engaged with and disengaged from the moving member, a second contact part for being engaged with and disengaged from the latching member, and a support part movably supporting the first and the second contact part.

16. The disk drive of claim 15, wherein the stopper member separates from the latching member when pushed by the moving member, and the stopper member remains in contact with the latching member when not pushed by the moving member.